

Northeast Region Forest Pest Update – 04/13/06

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Insects:

Emerald Ash Borer detection tree set-up to begin in Wisconsin - from Bill McNee, NER gypsy moth suppression coordinator. Emerald ash borer detection trees will soon be set up in about 25 Wisconsin state parks and recreation areas that are most visited by residents of southeast Michigan, where EAB is well established. In northeast Wisconsin, detection trees are planned for High Cliff, Peninsula, Point Beach, and Potawatomi State Parks, as well as the northern unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. The participating state properties are at high risk for EAB introduction because of the transport of infested firewood from southeast Michigan.

Detection tree preparation will begin in southern Wisconsin in late April and end in northern Wisconsin by late May. A detection tree is an ash that is girdled to cause it to release beetle-attracting chemicals, and it also has a sticky band wrapped around it to trap adult beetles. Trees are cut and peeled in the fall to look for EAB larvae beneath the bark. Six trees will be prepared at each property, and two will be cut and peeled each year. Questions about the project can be directed to Bill McNee at (920) 662-5430 or bill.mcnee@dnr.state.wi.us



Gypsy moth - from Bill McNee, NER gypsy moth suppression coordinator. With the weather warming up, gypsy moth egg masses will begin to hatch in late April as far north as the Green Bay area. The peak hatching period is usually during early May in the southern half of the region, and mid-May in the northern counties. Approximately 1,500 acres are scheduled for spraying in Beloit, Brown, Fond du Lac, and Manitowoc Counties. Management advice for homeowners and landowners is available at www.gypsymoth.wi.gov



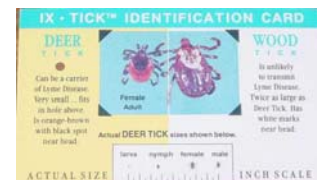
Gypsy moth spray training session - from Bill McNee, NER gypsy moth suppression coordinator. This year's spray training session will be held on Thursday, April 20, starting at 9:30 a.m. @ the DNR office in Howard, 2984 Shawano Ave. All cooperators should attend, and spray equipment will be lent out. If you can't make it, let me know and we'll make alternate arrangements. The same session will also be held in Beloit the prior day - details on request.

If you will be doing hatch monitoring, plan to start the Monday following the training session. Please RSVP to Bill McNee if you plan to attend the spray training. If you have any questions or need directions contact Bill McNee at (920) 662-5430 or bill.mcnee@dnr.state.wi.us

Mourning Cloak Butterflies – I saw my first Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*) of the season today. These butterflies (right) overwinter as an adult butterfly and emerge early in the spring to mate and lay eggs. Mourning Cloak caterpillars feed as a large group, which is more commonly seen in sawflies than in butterfly larvae, the caterpillars are a dark grey color with black spikes on their body and orange dots on their backs. Caterpillars feed on willow, aspen, cottonwood, and elm.



Ticks – is anyone seeing ticks yet? I've had reports from Marinette and Oconto Counties but it's certainly warm enough and dry enough that they should be active around the entire state. If anyone needs Tick ID Cards (right) which compare a Deer Tick with a Wood Tick let me know, I have some available and will order more if needed. Also, I have now collected specimens from all the nymphal stages of the deer tick, including the tiny 6-legged 1st instar nymph (all other immature stages have 8 legs as the adults do). If you would like to see these specimens stop by my office the next time you're at the DNR Headquarters in Green Bay.



For DNR folks, did you know that if you have a tick bite that requires medical attention (such as treatment for Lyme's following a deer tick bite) you are supposed to fill out the Employee's Workplace Injury or Illness Report as well as 2 additional reports. Contact Mary Ginnebaugh in NER for more information about the proper forms.

Diseases:

Diplodia shoot blight - several years ago Diplodia shoot blight and collar rot, common in red pine, was renamed Sphaeropsis Shoot Blight and Collar Rot. It is now, once again, called Diplodia. There are 2 different types in Wisconsin: *Diplodia pinea* (type A) and *Diplodia scrobiculata* (type B) both are commonly referred to as Diplodia. Diplodia is capable of causing significant red pine seedling mortality by infecting and girdling the root collar area, seedlings under moisture stress are most vulnerable. Diplodia also attacks the shoot tips of saplings and mature trees creating dead branch tips throughout the crown of the tree. In the photo at right the terminal leader of this 8-year-old red pine had been killed by Diplodia; recovery from this will be very difficult for the tree.



Oak Wilt restrictions – it's that time of year again. The time when you should not prune, wound, or harvest your oaks if oak wilt is a concern in your area. Oak wilt is a fungal disease specific to oaks that is almost always fatal. It is spread in 2 ways, overland by beetles, and underground through grafted root systems. The beetles that can spread this disease are attracted to fresh wounds where they feed on the sap and may accidentally leave some oak wilt spores as they feed. The pruning restrictions are aimed at limiting the overland spread of the disease by minimizing the number of fresh wounds for the beetles to feed on.

The critical time period for overland spread of the disease is April 15 – July 1, this is the time period when you should not prune, wound, or harvest oaks. Please check with your municipality or township to verify the restriction period since some cities and towns have extended their restriction period to include most of the growing season. Many people wonder why there is a discrepancy in the restriction dates, why do some cities/towns have oak wilt restrictions that extend throughout the growing season? It all depends on your tolerance of the risk; the majority of oak wilt fruiting mats are formed under the bark in the spring of the year, attracting the beetles which can then spread the fungus, but, there are a small number of trees that die from oak wilt that will fruit in the fall of the year. This number is quite small but it does create some late-season risk that some are not willing to accept, thus extended restriction periods are created to be absolutely safe.

For more information check out the DNR Forest Health Website and click on Oak Wilt on the left side of the page <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/Fh/index.htm>

Other:

Firewood Restrictions at State Campgrounds – effective April 1, 2006, the Wisconsin DNR is prohibiting the use of out-of-state firewood on any of the agency's properties; this will help reduce the spread of harmful forest pests and diseases including (but not limited to) Emerald Ash Borer, Oak Wilt, and Gypsy Moth. An available FAQ sheet instructs: **If you're a camper from outside Wisconsin, please don't bring firewood with you. It will be confiscated and, if the wood is from a quarantined area, you could be violating federal and state laws and be subject to substantial fines. If you have firewood with you that was purchased in Wisconsin, please have a receipt ready to show proof of that purchase.** If you're a camper from Wisconsin, then this rule doesn't affect you at all, unless you buy or cut your own firewood from a location outside of the state. If so, don't bring it into a State Park or other DNR-managed property.

Regardless of where you're from, everyone can take steps to keep Wisconsin State Parks, forests, and other forested areas free of emerald ash borer and other pests and diseases.

- Buy your firewood inside or near the property where you plan to camp
- Burn all the wood that you purchase or leave it behind for another camper
- Don't move firewood around with you on your camping trip

There is a website available with firewood Q&A at <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/firewood/> this site also lists locations for the Public Hearings which will occur on April 17.

Herbicide Notes from Todd Lanigan (WCR Forest Pest Specialist) – on March 1, 2006, Todd Lanigan attended a UAP Timberland Herbicide Meeting. His notes, in a word document, are attached to this email, it includes information on various herbicide products currently available as well as others that are new or in development.

Spring SAF meeting to focus on Ash – the Mid-Wisconsin SAF Chapter is hosting a training conference titled *Ash Management: Will You Be Kissing Your Fraxinus Goodbye?* This session focuses on ash, including the looming threat of Emerald Ash Borer and will be held June 7-8 in Wisconsin Rapids.

Squirrel damage to spruce – have you recently walked under a spruce only to find hundreds of green branch tips lying on the ground? You're probably observing squirrel damage. No one knows exactly why they do this although Shane Weber (NOR Pest Specialist in Spooner) reports that he's watched the little buggers clip and drop the tips of spruce branches without any apparent reason for doing so. I've had reports of this tip-clipping in Manitowoc, Oconto, and Waupaca Counties this year. This is a form of defoliation but most of the trees that I've seen with this damage still have a full healthy crown so I don't think it will affect the health of the tree too significantly.



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<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/Fh/index.htm>